

LACE IN STOCKINGS.

Self-Embroidery Preferred to Colors
Just Now.

Lace insets are as popular on the spring hosiery as when first introduced, and are only second in favor to the hand-drawn patterns in the finest silk stockings. These are now much used for evening wear, says the London Express. As the name denotes, the designs are entirely "picked out" or drawn by hand, after the style of Mexican embroidery. Only the finest of silk is used for the purpose.

Plain black silk may be bought with flexible top and of full length, and they can be beautifully decorated at home with lace insets if one cannot afford to buy them already lace-trimmed.

Lace insertion or motifs are basted in place, and carefully appliqued with fine sewing silk. The stocking is then cut away beneath the lace. These are very dainty for wear with dancing slippers.

Self-embroidery is much preferred to colors at present, and quite elaborate designs on black and pastel-colored hosiery in the delicate shades are worked out in silk of the same hue.

A very smart pair of emerald-green silk stockings had a medallion design in white silk. This was, of course, an exception to the general rule of self-embroidery. Lisle and cotton stockings may also be embroidered, though, except in the better qualities, the work entailed will not be recompensed for by the wear.

Very beautiful hosiery may be made from plain black silk of the finest quality, if lace insets are applied and the patterns outlined in jet or silver spangles.

Season for Poems
and—Other Things

In the spring a woman's fancy turns, but not lightly, to the thoughts of spring cleaning. It is an exquisite moment when every room has been turned out and scrupulously cleaned, and, all labor past, you behold your house shining from basement to roof like a new pin. Good yellow soap! There is nothing like it to scour every nook and corner. After the carpets have been beaten they may be washed, foot by foot, with a lather of yellow soap, which must be thoroughly washed off again with pure water, in which just a dash of ammonia has been added. The carpet will look like new. All the rooms, when cleansed, may with advantage be sprayed with some sweet-smelling herb or piney extract. White paint is best cleaned with whitening and water, and afterward rubbed with a soft cloth. White enamel should be washed with warm milk, and afterward polished with chamomile leather. To restore oil paintings, a painter tells me, "sponge your painting very carefully with pure soap and lukewarm water. Dry with a soft cloth. Now dip a piece of chamomile leather into sweet oil and rub all over the surface of the picture. Result, a pleasant surprise. This method cannot injure the most delicate work of art."

Pretty Basket Presents.

A woman who has made glorification of ordinary baskets a hobby has given two basket presents to friends who find the greatest satisfaction in the gifts. One of the presents is a work basket which is nothing more or less than a common half-bushel basket, enameled white and lined with cheap, pretty chintz. In its capacious depths can be stowed away a week's mending, and there's plenty of room besides for the usual small work basket.

The other present is a shoe box made out of a champagne bottle basket. The basket is stained a dark mahogany. Across the inside of its cover run two broad strips of braid in loops large enough to slip a pair of slippers through. "This is all there is to what I consider the finest shoe box going," said the recipient. "It does not line the basket, because its airiness is just what makes it the treasure it is. It doesn't get one bit musty. I stand my shoes in the basket and run my slippers along the cover, which can then be closed easily, as there is plenty of room in the basket for the slippers besides the layer of shoes. It's a treasure."

Artistic Fans.

"Recent importations from Germany include some exceedingly artistic fans in the regulation combination of materials and decorative effects and likewise a novelty or two. Fans of swansdown are enjoying a marked degree of fashionable approval and at the opera and other society affairs the large fluffy breeze-propeller of swansdown, has been conspicuously waved by many a distinguished matron and maid.

"One mounted in pearl and spangled gauze is bordered by a row of cockatoo feathers in white. Another shows tortoise-shell mounting combined with black and gold spangled gauze, the distinctive note being an edging of tortoise shell most delicately carved.

"It is a fad nowadays to collect fans, and collectors who value their possessions are investing in special cases in which to store their treasures. These cases are gilt framed in the shape of a fan, with a background of silk velvet or brocade and the contents are kept on view, but safe from dust."—Brooklyn Eagle.

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SOMEWHAT AFTER THE SAILOR MODE.

Embroidered linen, in which the white "stamine" ground is sprinkled with worked rings in a medium shade of blue is used for this smart little frock. The broad sailor collar and the shield are in dark blue linen, strapped with white, and the sailor knot below the collar is likewise of the dark linen. The blouse fastens in a novel way at the left side, the skirt being particularly full, and shirred to the waistband, that is concealed by the dark linen belt. Another dark band defines the hem. The sleeve is the familiar pattern, with a pointed cuff of dark blue.

A PRONOUNCED VOGUE FOR SILK
SHOWN IN LATEST SPRING COATS

Taffeta and Other Silks Made Up in Many Picturesque Ways.

Coats of taffeta and other silks are to have a decided vogue and are made in many picturesque ways, running from the fussy little wraps, shirred, plaited, and corded into piquant shapeliness, to the long ample redingotes and the severely tailored silk motor coats.

The blouse bolero with belt and long skirts is very successful in soft taffeta, and not too extreme to be generally useful. Flat collar and lap or style ends of Irish crochet or of heavy embroidery or baste, or linen trim many of these coats, and the only other trimming is in manipulation of the silk by means of shirring, plaitings, cordings, etc.

Now fantastic but most coquettish are such wraps as the loose little palette of soft taffeta with long fronts jabotting in points, like elongated plaited rabbits. Similar plaited points fall in the back, but at the sides the wrap reaches only to the waist line.

Lace at the Neck.

There is a finish of lace at the neck and bordering the fronts, and on each side of the front at the neck line are set heavy ornaments of silk crochet, from which long cord and ball ends fall down the middle of the pointed fronts.

Light weight broadcloth, though easily soiled, is so ideal a fabric for the graceful wrap in light tones that each season adds to its prestige, there are a host of new cloth cloaks in Arabian, Chinese, Russian, and purely Parisian lines, loose, enveloping, falling in soft graceful folds.

There are new short coats of cloth in white and delicate lines, one of these delightful creations of supple white cloth, made loose and reaching almost to the knees, its only trimming was its border, finishing neck, fronts, bottom, and arm holes; but this border was a raised design of huge, conventionalized flowers, heavily embroidered in white silk, the great petals forming the irregular edge of the garment.

The effect of the coat is of a straight Dalmatian, worn over an under robe, but the sleeves, formed of three plain, flowing flounces of cloth stitched on the edge, are really in one with the rest of the coat.

The covert coat is to be ubiquitous as ever and is apparently to be held by no hard and fast rules, for it appears in varying lengths and in all degrees of tightness, from the sacque coat and

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SMART LINEN FROCK.

There is nothing prettier for midsummer wear than all-white wash stuffs, and linen is among the most practical and favored materials.

A pretty suggestion for a linen frock has a panel front heavily stitched and strapped just below waist line in round scallops, held in place with pearl buttons. The same effect is carried out on front of blouse and the unique sleeve fastens from elbow to wrist with buttons reaching those on skirt and bodice. Girdles of different shades are worn if desired, but those of white kid are in better taste. The turn-over on stock is Hardanger embroidery.

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